



# Hiking Deaths In The News

- **Sep 1990 - Stephen and Jenny Reisberg from Boston, were very experienced hikers but vanished from Kauai while hiking. Law enforcement officials investigated the couple's disappearance conceded the improbability of two people having simultaneous fatal accidents.**
  - **"They could have stumbled on a marijuana plantation,"** said Ted Baker from the Hawaii attorney general's office. "But I am not able to say that has any more likelihood than them falling off a cliff or starving to death while lost in the rain forest. Their case remains open. [http://www.charleyproject.org/cases/r/reisberg\\_stephen.html](http://www.charleyproject.org/cases/r/reisberg_stephen.html)
- **June 1995 - Timothy Pantaleoni disappeared while hiking in the Maunawili Trails area, Oahu. Tim vanished without a trace, He was 34 years old and he was in excellent physical condition. This case also remains open, "foul play is a possibility".**  
**[http://www.charleyproject.org/cases/p/pantaleoni\\_timothy.html](http://www.charleyproject.org/cases/p/pantaleoni_timothy.html)**



# **Hiking Injuries in the News**

- **Teen falls from Pali, found alive six days later. A Honolulu teen-ager, missing for a week, was found on the rocky slope beneath the Pali Lookout where he had lain with multiple broken bones for apparently six days.**
- **February 25, 2002, Jaheffrey Miller of Aiea, fell to his death in Waimanalo Sunday. 23-year-old, died of multiple injuries when he fell nearly 300 hundred feet. His death, a tragic reminder of just how dangerous some of Oahu's hiking trails can be. Monday, state officials spoke out, urging everyone to be careful. <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/679906/hikers-death-a-reminder-of-how-dangerous-oahus-hiking-trails-can-be?ClientType=Printable&redirected=true>**
- **In 2004, hiking Olomana, Jacqueline Turner, 44 of Kaneohe, fell 150 feet but miraculously survived. Also on that day, another hiker, Mel Yoshioka, also fell while descending the backside of Olomana's second peak. He, too, survived. <http://extremehikinghawaii.blogspot.com/2011/04/tragedy-on-olomana.html>**



# Hiking Deaths In The News

- A 130th Engineer Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Soldier was killed in a hiking accident that occurred on 10 January 2010 at approximately 1700 local in the Makaha Valley, Hawaii. The 29-year-old 1LT fell while attempting to retrieve equipment he had dropped or lost during a previous hike. The Soldier fell approximately 400' from a cliff to his death.
- At 12:14 p.m. Sunday 26 April 2011, Ryan Suenaga, 44, fell to his death hiking Olomana peaks. Rescue crews found Suenaga's body at about 1:45 p.m. "Our group was comprised of mostly seasoned hikers, Ryan being one of them," Choy said. "With this in mind, I do not know how or why this happened. We lost sight of him for just a short while, and he was gone. ...."
- [http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110426\\_hiker\\_killed\\_in\\_fall\\_touched\\_numerous\\_lives.html](http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110426_hiker_killed_in_fall_touched_numerous_lives.html)



# Hiking Deaths In The News - Kauai

## HIKERS DIE

*Two women died after falling near Opaekaa Falls on Kauai.*



- 2 women die at Kauai falls
- The visitors from California plummet hundreds of feet off a trail to the base of the falls
- They were following a travel website's guidance to gain access to a "Hidden Pool." This website contradicted state posted guidance to only use approved trails and not venture off them
- The trail they used was not safe, with steep & muddy slopes



# **Hiking/Water Hazards - Maui**

- **Shannon Smith was a UH football player who drowned in a water fall fed pool three days before his 21st birthday, saving the life of 6-year old Cody von Appen**
- **David George Toeller a 53-year-old Kula man, died after falling from a 200-foot cliff on the East Maui Irrigation Trail in Keanae, in December 31, 2001**
- **Visitor dies after being swept from Maui stream. Family was swimming in the lowest Pools of Ohe'o and was swept out into the surf while trying to retrieve a lost slipper. He was last seen swimming in 4-6 foot breaks. A fire department helicopter found his body floating north of the pools later that day.**



# **Hiking Hazards - Big Island**



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# **Hiking Hazards - Big Island**

- **Nov 99 John Reece vanishes on the big island of Hawaii.** John was last seen at the beginning of his hike from Keaau by a co-worker. John intended to travel to the Waimanu Valley area and from there travel established hiking trails. He has not been seen since
- **Volcano rescuers renew search for fallen hiker.** He was last seen when he fell down the seaward slope of a small cinder cone onto a shoreline bench of lava rock. He was making an illegal nighttime hike with seven other people in a restricted area of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park



# **Hiking Trail Hazards**

- **Lack of Information on warning signs in state parks. National Park signs are much better.**
- **Failure to plan for sudden weather changes at the higher levels. (It can get cold!)**
- **Failure to pack supplies - water, cell phone, flashlight, mirror, etc. Notify others of your plans.**
- **Unfamiliar with the terrain, no map recon.**
- **Possibility of flash floods, wild dogs and boars.**
- **Sudden drop offs, volcanic rock is highly crumbly, breaking off easily.**
- **Drinking untreated water - Leptospirosis causes flu-like symptoms**





# **Hiking Trail Hazards**



**Narrow mountain  
top ridgeline trail.**

**What safety  
related items  
would you carry in  
a backpack for a  
day hiking trip?**



# Hiking Trail Hazards

8th Fleet Support Command



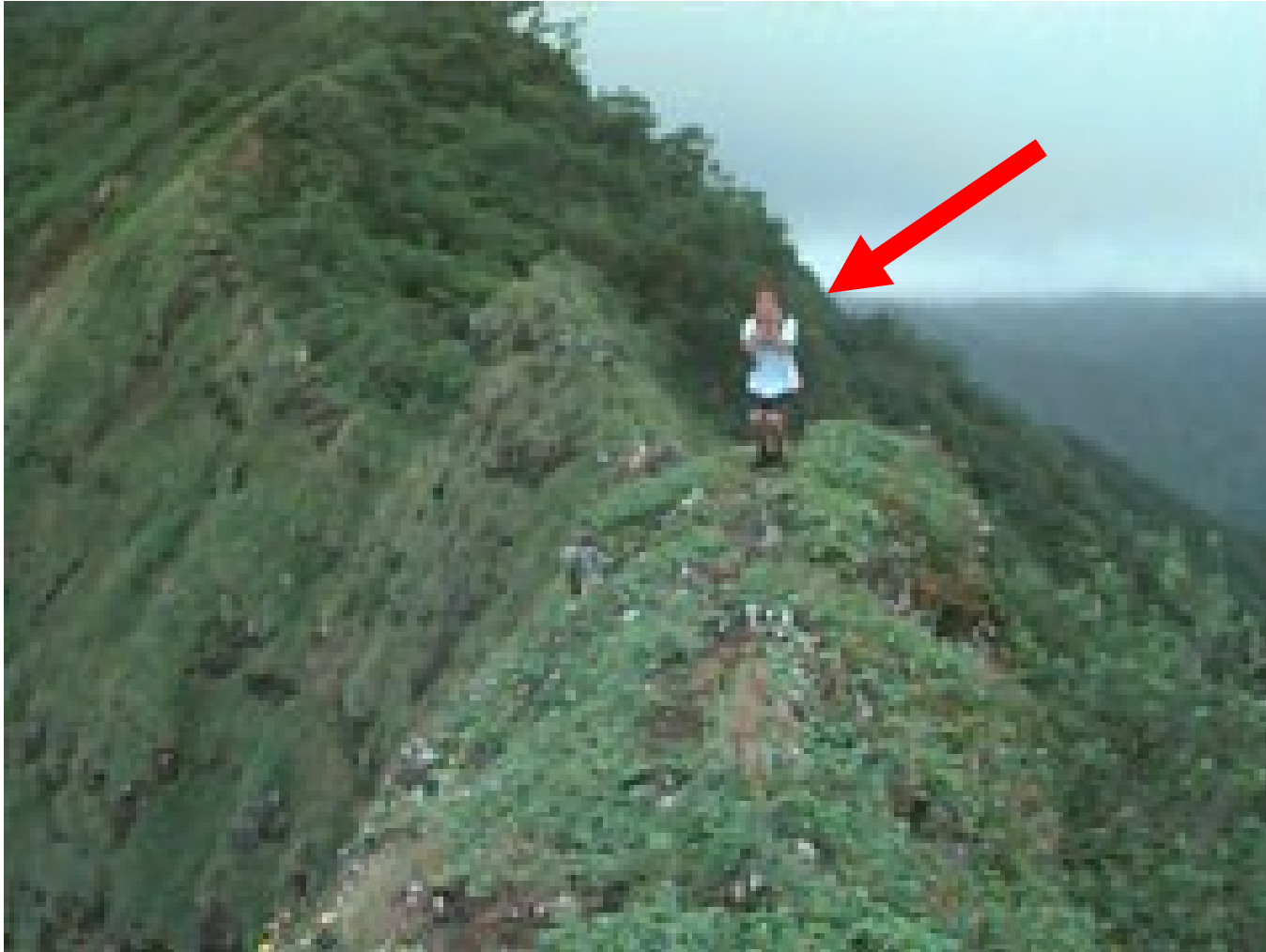
**Narrow  
mountain  
top  
ridgeline  
trail.**

**Lava based  
ridges are  
very likely  
to have  
ONLY  
crumbling &  
loose rock.**

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# **Hiking Trail Hazards**



**Narrow mountain top ridgeline trail**

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# **Hiking Trail Hazards**

**What do you think the visibility is here?!?!**



**Storm clouds can quickly move in & hide drop offs.**

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# Hawaii Hiking Warning Signs



**These signs were designed & placed on trails for your safety.**

**Fail to follow their guidance and you have assumed full responsibility for the consequences**

**to include costs of rescue operations and medical treatment if so determined by LOD investigation.**

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# Hawaii Trail & Access System

**Na Ala Hele** Trail & Access System

Home Kauai **Oahu** Molokai Lanai Maui Hawaii Info Contact

**Oahu**

**Manana Trail**

**Trail Length:** 6 mi.  
**Terrain:** Open ridgeline  
**Activity:** Pedestrian, Bicycle  
**Elevation:** 1700 ft  
**Features:** Hike, Nature Study, Hunt  
**Hazards:** Footing, cliffs  
**Amenities:** Shelter

The map shows 22 numbered trails on Oahu. Trail 12 is highlighted in red. An inset map shows trails 19 through 40.

- Site gives hiking information for each island
- 12 Oahu hiking trails are shown here
- Elevation - to 1700'  
Can be cold at night
- Notice the hazards are listed -  
    **Footing & Cliffs**
- Amenities - Seldom much shelter

<http://www.hawaiitrails.org/>

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# **HI Hiking Safety Guide**

- **Hawaii DLNR publishes a guide “Hiking Safely In Hawaii” you can download and/or print to carry with you**
- **<http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/brochures/HikingSafety.pdf>**
- **This guide is designed for Hawaii’s unique hiking trail conditions such as flash floods, very narrow paths etc.**
- **The guide also provides cautions against damaging any cultural areas and protected plant and animal species.**
- **As with any tourist area in Hawaii, do not leave valuables in your car while hiking. Either take them with you or leave them at home**



# Rock/Landslides

- On Mother's Day, May 9, 1999, at 2:30 p.m., the Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) received telephone calls reporting a landslide at Sacred Falls State Park, Punalu'u. 34 people injured, 8 people killed after being hit by falling rocks. An Air Force Master Sergeant & his two children were killed.
- **Rock slides can occur at any time**



One of the main reasons Sacred Falls State Park is closed is that the 7 deaths that were caused by the landslide were determined to be the State government's fault and the state lost millions of dollars in court because the state park was deemed

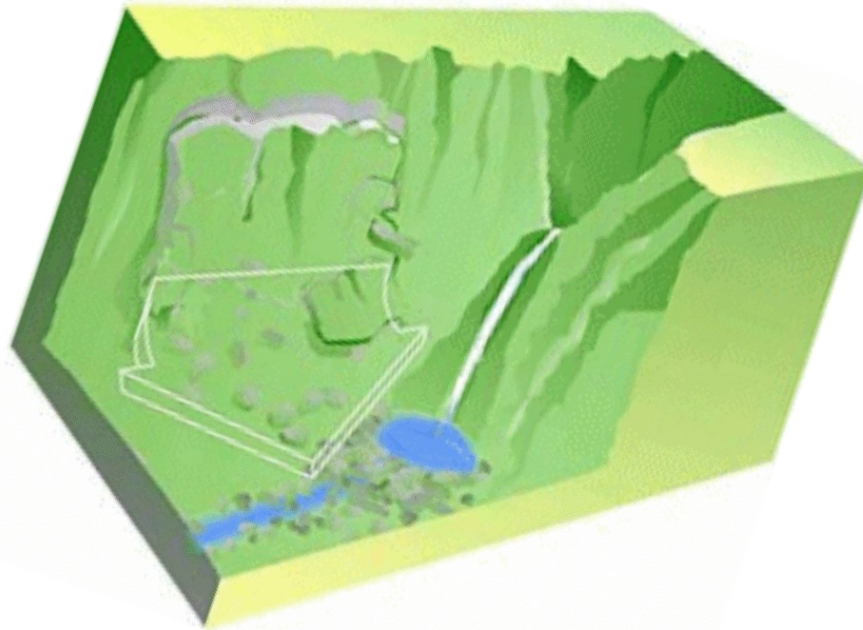


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# **Sacred Falls Landslide**



**Debris from an area the size of a football field slides down the left slope at about 2:30 p.m., dropping 500 feet to the valley floor in a matter of MINUTES!!!**

**“Hundreds of rocks came down, and it had a ping-pong effect, bouncing off the wall,” said Kenneth Silva, Oahu fire department battalion chief.**



# **Landslides Signs**



December 18, 2003



December 18, 2003

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# Flash Flood Signs



December 18, 2003



December 18, 2003



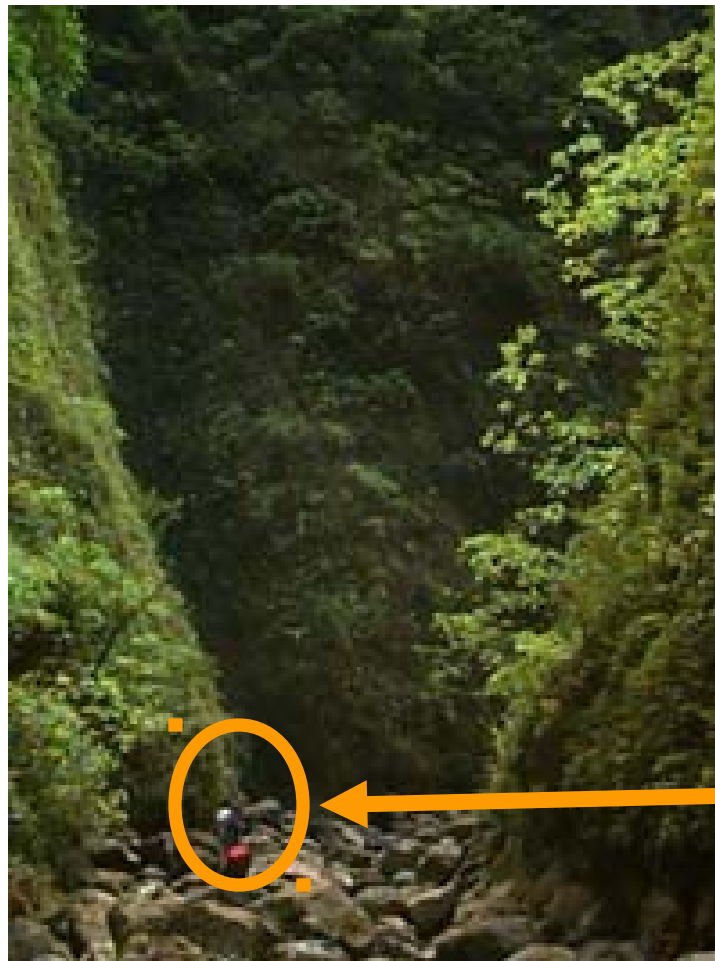
# **Flash Floods & Heavy Rains**

- **Storms can start before you have a chance to leave the area.**
- **Rain can fall at over 1" an hour**
- **Volcanic rock does not soak up the rain water like regular dirt mountains do. Water runs off very quickly**
- **Very narrow valleys/gulches with high walls prevent climbing out of a dry stream bed area during a flash flood**
- **Heavy rains can dislodge boulders on the sides of the valley/gulch**



# **Flash Flood Dangers**

**No place to “get to higher ground!!!”**



**Hikers**

**Where would you go in case of a flash flood?**

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# **Pools of Ohe'o on Maui**



Heavy rain up the mountain side can quickly turn this small stream into a raging torrent/flash flood. Giving unprepared very little time to react before being flushed out to sea.



# Rainbow Falls State Park, Big and



Wailuku River gently  
flowing over Rainbow Falls  
**Before Heavy Rains -**



**After Heavy Rains -**  
way upstream. Notice  
the blue skies...and next



# Rainbow Falls State Park, Big



**After REALLY Heavy Rains -** Wailuku River surging  
over Rainbow Falls – 9 Mar 06





# Heavy Rains Pali Highway,

Dal



“Pali Falls” on to the Pali Hwy – 1 Mar 06

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# Heavy Rains - Oahu



A mudslide closes part of Tantalus on Round Top Drive – Mar 06



Heavy rains flood lower lying areas of the island – Mar 06





# **All Terrain Accidents**

**ALL Soldiers are required to gain Safety Training before riding ATVs and to use ALL PPE**

## **Deaths stir fears about ATVs**

Three people have been killed riding all-terrain vehicles on the Big Island over four weeks, leading to renewed concern about their safety.

If you take sign up for an ATV adventure, ensure the company is licensed, takes the time to explain safety, enforces wearing protective gear and the ATV is well maintained, working brakes, etc.

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/11/26/news/story02.html>

All-terrain vehicle riders Sheldon Sarsuelo, right, and Ikaika Kuahiwinui took a moment's rest yesterday on the muddy 11-mile ATV and dirt bike trail in the upper Waiakea area near Hilo. Both emphasized the importance of safety.

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# **ATV - Safety Tips**

- **Wear a helmet, eye protection, shoes and protective clothing.**
- **Never ride on paved surfaces or public roads.**
- **Never carry passengers.**
- **Never engage in stunt riding.**
- **Avoid excessive speeds and be careful on difficult terrain.**
- **Take approved ATV safety education training.**
- **Don't let children ride full-sized ATVs, and follow age recommendations for models.**
- **Follow all safety recommendations of the ATV manufacturer.**
- **Operate ATVs only during daylight.**
- **For more information, see <http://www.atvsafety.org> & <http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/agriatv.htm>**



# **Island Roads Take Their Toll**

- **140** in 2005,
- **167** in 2006,
- **140** in 2007,
- **44** in 2008, of which 14 were pedestrians
- **55** in 2009, of which 10 were pedestrians
- **58** in 2010, of which 19 were pedestrians



# **Motorcyclist & Car Driver Killed On Nimitz Highway**



**16 Dec 08, 12:45 a.m. A 35yo Federal Detention Guard was killed while turning left from Nimitz Highway to Camp Catlin Road.**

**He was hit by a motorcyclist, a Tripler Army Hospital medic, riding a 2007 Kawasaki.**



**They were the 43<sup>rd</sup> & 44<sup>th</sup> Traffic  
The motorcycle hit with such  
speed it penetrated the passenger  
side of the 4-door Nissan Sedan,  
rolling it over on the roof, lodging  
the motorcycle inside the vehicle  
and killing the rider on impact.**





# **Narrow Road Driving Hazards**



## **Tour Bus Kills SUV Driver, Crashes Into Home**

- **ONE MAN DIED** and Kamehameha Highway traffic came to a standstill after a tour bus driver apparently crossed into oncoming traffic, hit a sport utility vehicle and crashed into a Kahaluu home, police said.
- The 42-year-old driver of the SUV died at the scene after his car was crushed by the town-bound Roberts Hawaii tour bus. The bus driver refused a BAC test and was arrested for negligent homicide. (June 06)



# Narrow Road Driving Hazards

## FATAL ACCIDENT ON KUNIA ROAD

The accident took place on the two-lane Kunia Road near the Royal Kunia Shopping Center around 7:35 a.m. An account of what happened, according to police:

To Schofield

3. Pickup truck hits cement truck traveling in opposite direction toward Wahiawā.

4. At least 10 passengers are thrown from bed of truck. Four of them, all women, are killed.

Kunia Road

5. Car reportedly last seen entering Schofield Barracks.

2. Red pickup truck carrying 12 people, including at least 10 riding in the truck bed, swerves to avoid the oncoming car.

1. Silver or light blue car tries to pass slower-moving traffic by entering opposite lane.

To Waipahu

JOHN VALLES and GREG TAYLOR | The Honolulu Advertiser

**Four Women Killed,  
Eight Injured**

**KUNIA —** The search for a motorist who caused a devastating early morning crash by trying to pass in a no-passing lane continued last night in the aftermath of a deadly traffic accident that left four farm workers dead and injured eight others. (Apr 06)



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# Narrow Road Driving Hazards



Many of Oahu's roads are long narrow, winding, two lane, undivided roads.

Most have many no passing areas & limited visibility.

## **Most dangerous roads:**

1. Kunia Road, Kunia
2. Kaukonahua Rd, Wahiawa, to Haleiwa Town
3. Kamehameha Hwy, North Shore, Circle Island
4. Kahekili Hwy, Kaneohe (Turns in to Kam Hwy)
5. Kalanianaʻole Hwy, Hanauma Bay area
6. Farrington Hwy, Makaha area



# **Driving Hazards - Mopeds**

- The islands are home to a high number of mopeds, especially in the Waikiki area and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Riders sit low and are hard to see.
- Large vehicles to your left/right block your view.
- Many mopeds are operated by tourists who may not be familiar with the local area, making sudden stops, turns or driving on the wrong roads i.e. Likelike Hwy
- Entering a darkened tunnel and suddenly finding a moped in front of you can be fatal if you're not pay attention.
- **Soldiers, on-duty or off-duty are required to complete Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider training before riding mopeds, no exceptions.**
- **See your unit motorcycle mentor for details.**



# **Sudden Weather Changes while Driving**

- **In the islands you can literally drive in and out of a storm which allows minimal visibility within half a mile or 15 minutes. This is called localized rain.**
- **Driving through the tunnels can mean you starting in clear and sunny weather on one side and finding yourself in pouring rain on the other.**
- **This isn't too great (or safe) for motorcycles & convertibles that have their tops down.**
- **Many valley areas like Manoa, Kalihi and Tantalus also experience localized rain.**



# **Driving Hazards Road Differences**

- **There lots of streets and highways with little or no merge lanes i.e. University avenue off and on ramps.**
- **Road/street signs with Hawaiian names, which may be hard to read (at first) as you drive and looking for “your street”.**
- **The islands have a high volume of foreign drivers (tourists), who are used to driving on the wrong side of the road and looking the other way first.**
- **Lack of street name signs, poorly positioned, hidden by greenery or no street name signs/building numbers**



## **Driving Hazards Cell Phones**

- Cell phones, with or without a hands free device, “Will Not Be Used” when driving an AMV/GOV. Same for earphone devices like IPODS, etc. Hearing aids ok.**
- Army Installations - Hand free cell phone device is approved for use.**
- Navy Installations - Hand free cell phone device is approved for use.**



# **Leptospirosis Incident**

- **Soldier was treated for leptospirosis that he contacted after swimming at Maunawili Falls, a popular hiking spot on the windward side of Oahu.**
- **Symptoms are flu-like & include fever, fatigue, muscle aches, headaches, rash & diarrhea that may occur weeks after exposure.**
- **Can lead to intestinal bleeding, meningitis, kidney & liver failure. Full recovery may take 1-2 months, in some cases several years.**
- **Leptospirosis is endemic to all Hawaiian Islands!!!**



# **Tourist Related Hazards**

## **How Does This Affect Me?**

- **The majority of new Soldiers to the island will “play tourist” visiting all the major tourist attractions, soon after they arrive.**
- **Soldiers will have family or relatives visit them and will play tour guide for them.**
- **Advance knowledge of tourist hazards will reduce the chances of becoming a victim.**
- **Feb 05 - Total crimes in Waikiki dropped to 3,576 in 2004 from 4,509 the year before. Of the 20 largest U.S. cities, Honolulu has the lowest crime rates, said Honolulu Police Maj. Thomas Nitta, who oversees Waikiki, the state's most popular tourist center.**



# **Tourist Related Beach Crimes**

- **Personal items left on the beach to stay dry are stolen while the owners are out swimming. This is the leading theft problem at Hanauma Bay.**
- **Thieves have taken wallets and purses, removed only one of their two credit cards, returned wallet/purse, then make illegal charges and identity theft before you know they are gone.**
- **"We've seen cases where someone takes \$5,000 and their ID to the beach," said Jessica Rich, president and executive director of the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii, which assists tourist crime victims. "They tuck it under their towel and go for a swim. When they come back, everything's gone."**





# **Tourist Related Beach Crimes**

- **HPD Officer Karl Steininger recently helped an Ohio man who had his wallet with \$120 stolen. On the previous day Karl worked with a man whose wallet containing \$800 was stolen.**
- **Clad only in swimsuits and flip-flops, Jacob and Linda Krestinski shivered as they filed a report in an air-conditioned police station in West Oahu.**
- **As the couple was savoring a final swim before flying home, someone took their rental car keys from the beach, driving off with their luggage, credit cards & IDs.**
- **"My glasses were stolen, so I couldn't read to fill out any of the forms," Jacob Krestinski said. "My wife luckily could call the airlines, rental car & credit card companies."**
- **The Krestinskis are among a small percentage of visitors to Hawaii who have fallen victim to thieves and other criminals, but every such crime sullies Hawaii's image among tourists.**



# **Tourist Related Beach Crimes**

- **Plan ahead before you go and leave all items you do not absolutely need at home or in your hotel safe.**
- **Do you really need to bring more than one credit/debit/ID card with you to the beach?**
- **Take turns enjoying the water, have someone stay behind to watch items, but don't swim alone either.**
- **Buy a small waterproof wallet to protect your items and take it with you while you're in the water.**
- **Store valuables in your car only as a last resort, preferably in the locked trunk or glove box.**



# **Car Break-Ins**

- Car break-ins are an epidemic at popular tourist destinations such as the North Shore, Diamond Head, Pali Lookout, Hanauma Bay, Zoo, the **USS Arizona Memorial** car park and hotel parking lots.
- Thieves will park a solid panel van next to your vehicle to block observation while they break in.
- Thieves will break windows out or cut through convertible tops to get at your property.
- Concealing items stored inside your car will reduce the temptation for thieves to break in. Theft from rental cars is the most commonly reported crime.
- In 2003 the Visitor Aloha Society assisted 993 cases against tourists, ranging from purse snatching to the rare attempted murder. About 61 percent of the crimes were thefts from vehicles.
- Hawaii has toughened penalties for those who victimize tourists. They can now be prosecuted under federal law because they threaten interstate commerce, Nitta said.



# **Unsafe Areas**

- **As many cities have “Unsafe Areas”, so does Hawaii. These areas are not limited to the downtown but also include some residential and beach areas.**
- **How do you recognize these areas? No clear rules. Best to ask your co-workers & friends for guidance.**
- **Should you be at a beach area and hear “haole” (foreigner or Caucasian) or a similar derogatory terms used in a threatening manner, you should consider leaving the area.**
- **You will find the vast majority of Hawaiians to be very friendly, helpful, and very proud of their islands and the Aloha Spirit.**
- **It is the very few people who do not like non-Hawaiians that can be the problem.**
- **While the chance of violence is almost nil, knowledge is the best prevention.**
- **Take a few precautions and enjoy all the beauty Hawaii has to offer.**



# **Conclusion**

**Comments or Questions**

## **References**

**The following information sources were used in creating these safety slides:**

- **Honolulu Advertiser**
- **Honolulu Star Bulletin**
- **Hawaii State Life Guards**
- **KGMB Channel 9**
- **KITV Channel 4**
- **NorthshorePowerPortfolios.Com**
- **Oceanic Cable/Road Runner**
- **516th Signal Brigade Off-Duty Hazards presentation**

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